

Guidance Regarding Athletic Eligibility of Displaced Students

Agreement has been reached among the Department of Education, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union to accommodate secondary students whose families are displaced by our recent natural disasters. Ordinarily, the transfer rule requires high school students who transfer from one school to another without a contemporaneous parental move to sit out 90 consecutive school days from varsity level competition in interscholastic sports.

Due to the Katrina-like circumstances in Iowa this spring, displaced students* will be held harmless (that is, have no period of ineligibility) under all of the following scenarios:

1. The student attends school in the district of temporary residence. Upon the family's return to the original resident district, the student will also be immediately eligible.
2. The student continues attendance at his/her original school.
3. The student open enrolls from the district of temporary residence to a third school. If the open enrollment is ended when the family returns to the original resident district, the student will also be immediately eligible back at the student's original school.
4. The student attends a nonpublic school. Upon the family's return to the original resident district, the student will also be immediately eligible.

This special interpretation of the transfer rule sunsets after the 2009-2010 school year.

In all cases, schools must provide a list of displaced students to the IHSAA and IGHSAU on a form that will be available on the web sites of both organizations. If questions arise about eligibility, call the appropriate organization, IHSAA at 515/432-2011 or IGHSAU at 515/288-9741.

* A displaced student is one who, with his/her family, temporarily resides in another school district because of damage to the family home caused by tornado, flood, or similar disaster.

Notification of Displaced Students to IGHSAU and IHSAA

All member and associate member schools are asked to provide information about any 9th – 12th grade students whose families have been displaced by one or more of the natural disasters to have afflicted Iowa in the spring of 2008.

List all known students who desire to participate in interscholastic athletic contests and competitions (when in doubt as to whether a student will participate in sports, err on the side of including that student's information). To ensure that no student is inadvertently omitted, list all displaced students who were in your school during 2007-08 and are attending elsewhere during 2008-09, as well as those who are temporarily living elsewhere but plan to continue at your school. *List any student about whom a question might arise.*

Please complete as many forms as you need, and fax to **both** the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union at 515/284-1969 and the Iowa High School Athletic Association at 515/432-2961. [The IGHSAU and IHSAA reserve the right to make further inquiry about any of the listed students.]

Student's Name	School Attended 2007-08	School to be Attended Start of 2008-09	Grade Level 2008-09	Additional Necessary Information
<i>Example 1: Mary Smith</i>	<i>Excelsior High School</i>	<i>Acme High School</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Family lives temporarily in Acme District, but plans to rebuild and move back to Excelsior.</i>
<i>Example 2: John Jones</i>	<i>Excelsior High School</i>	<i>Excelsior High School</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Family lives temporarily in Acme District, but wants John to continue at Excelsior with no interruption to his education.</i>

Signature of High School Principal

School Name

Date

(Use as many additional sheets as needed.)

[illegible]